DOCKET NO: 291135US0PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

PHILLIPPE GRAPPIN, ET AL. : ATTN: BOX SEQUENCE

SERIAL NO: 10/580,712

FILED: DECEMBER 19, 2006

FOR: USE OF L-ISOASPARTYL

METHYLTRANSFERASE AS

LONGEVITY MARKER IN SEEDS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND STATEMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Communication of December 21, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.